

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00 NSAE-00  
OES-02 EB-04 ICA-01 DLOS-02 SP-02 DODE-00 L-01  
PM-03 HA-02 TRSE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-10 PA-01 EUR-08  
EA-06 /073 W

-----064592 182040Z /45

P 182000Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6596  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY  
AMEMBSSY CARACAS PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 GEORGETOWN 1203

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, PEPR, PLOS, EFIS, FY, NS

SUBJECT: GUYANA'S RELATIONS WITH SURINAM

REF: GEORGETOWN 1166

1. FORMER OFFICIAL OF THE GUYANESE GOVERNMENT HAS PROVIDED THE EMBASSY WITH WHAT PURPORTS TO BE A SECRET GOG POSITION PAPER ON GUYANESE RELATIONS WITH SURINAM PREPARED BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. THE DOCUMENT PROVIDES ADDITIONAL LIGHT ON THE CURRENT STATE OF TENSION IN GOG/GOS RELATIONS AND SETS FORTH A PLAN OF ACTION (WHICH APPEARS TO BE ALREADY IN MOTION).

2. FIRST THREE AND A HALF PAGES OF THE GOG DOCUMENT DEALS RATHER EXTENSIVELY WITH THE CURRENT DISPUTE REGARDING THE CLOSING OF THE CORENTYNE RIVER TO GUYANESE FISHERMEN AND OTHER NAVIGATORS AND EXAMINES THE EVOLUTION OF THE RESPECTIVE GOG AND GOS CLAIMS TO THE CORENTYNE AND THE  
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NEW RIVER TRIANGLE. THE MOST INTERESTING PORTION OF THE DOCUMENT IS CONTAINED ON PAGES 4 AND 5 WHICH IS A FOUR-POINT ACTION PLAN WHICH GOG INTENDS TO FOLLOW:  
QUOTE: 17(I) INSTRUCT OUR AMBASSADOR IN PARAMARIBO TO MAKE AN ORAL PROTEST, THE TERMS OF WHICH WOULD BE DETERMINED IN GEORGETOWN. SUCH ACTION SHOULD BE EFFECTED BY APRIL 11, 1978. THE PRESENTATION WOULD

REGISTER OUR STRONG OBJECTION TO THE UNILATERAL DENIAL BY SURINAM OF THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF GUYANESE IN THE USE OF THE CORENTYNE RIVER, THE ILL-TREATMENT OF GUYANESE CITIZENS, THE PROVOCATIVE NATURE OF THE ACTIONS OF THE SURINAM AUTHORITIES AND WILL SPECIFICALLY PROTEST THE HARSH AND INHUMAN TREATMENT OF GUYANESE BALATA BLEEDERS. THE PROTEST WILL HIGHLIGHT THE NEED FOR THE URGENT SETTLEMENT OF ALL BOUNDARY QUESTIONS. IT WILL AFFIRM GUYANA'S DETERMINATION TO TAKE ALL STEPS AT ITS DISPOSAL TO PROTECT THE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF GUYANESE CITIZENS AND TO ENSURE THEIR SECURITY. IN THE PRESENTATION, IT WILL BE INDICATED THAT GUYANA IS NOT UNWILLING TO RESUME THE DIPLOMATIC PROCESS WITH THE SAME OBJECTIVES EMBRACED IN THE FEBRUARY NEGOTIATIONS. IN THIS REGARD, AN INVITATION COULD BE EXTENDED TO SURINAM TO SEND A DELEGATION TO GEORGETOWN WITHIN A WEEK TO FINALIZE THE UNDERSTANDING REACHED IN FEBRUARY. (II) CONTINGENCY PLANS SHOULD BE MADE IMMEDIATELY FOR STRENGTHENING THE GUYANA SECURITY (MILITARY) PRESENCE ON THE WEST BANK OF THE CORENTYNE RIVER AND FOR THE UTILIZATION OF OUR NAVAL CAPABILITY. (III) IN THE EVENT THAT SURINAM DOES NOT RESPOND POSITIVELY WITHIN A REASONABLE TIME (TWO TO THREE WEEKS) BEGIN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONTINGENCY PLANS MENTIONED IN (II) ABOVE. THIS STEP SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE WITHDRAWAL OF OUR AMBASSADOR IN

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PARAMARIBO.

(IV) CONSIDER THE QUESTION OF SEVERING ECONOMIC RELATIONS. IN THIS REGARD THERE SHOULD BE A CAREFUL EXAMINATION OF THE LIKELY EFFECT OF THE SEVERANCE OF SUCH RELATIONS ON OUR ECONOMY. UNQUOTE. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY PAPER THEN OBSERVES THAT "THE GUYANA PUBLIC HAS PERHAPS NOT BEEN AS FULLY INFORMED AS IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN ON A CONSISTENT BASIS ON THE HISTORY OF THE GUYANA/SURINAM BOUNDARY QUESTION, THE EFFORTS GUYANA HAS MADE TO RESOLVE THE DIFFERENCES AMICABLY AND PEACEFULLY AND TO FOSTER FRIENDLY RELATIONS, AND ACTION TAKEN OR CONTEMPLATED TO PROTECT THE INTEREST OF OUR NATIONALS AND TO ENSURE THEIR SECURITY. THUS AN ADEQUATE PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITY AND PUBLICITY AT THE PARTY, GOVERNMENT AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS APPROPRIATE TO THE COURSE OF ACTION SHOULD BE DEvised." THE PAPER CONCLUDES BY RECOMMENDING THAT "AT THE DIPLOMATIC LEVEL, THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TAKE APPROPRIATE STEPS TO ENDEAVOUR THAT THE GUYANA POSITION IS UNDERSTOOD, AND WHEREVER POSSIBLE, SUPPORTED." THE PAPER BEARS THE DATE APRIL 2, 1978, AND WE ARE INFORMED THAT THE CABINET APPROVED THE FOUR RECOMMENDED COURSES OF

ACTION AT ITS REGULAR TUESDAY MEETING EITHER ON  
APRIL 4 OR APRIL 11.

3. A SLIGHT DEVIATION FROM THE COURSE OF ACTION RECOMMENDED  
BY THE MINISTRY AND THE PLAN ALREADY IN MOTION WILL BE  
NOTED: WHEREAS THE FIRST RECOMMENDED COURSE OF ACTION  
WAS THAT THE GUYANESE AMBASSADOR IN PARAMARIBO SHOULD  
DELIVER AN ORAL PROTEST TO THE GOS, WE NOW KNOW A  
WRITTEN PROTEST WAS DELIVERED.

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P 182000Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6597  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY  
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AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 GEORGETOWN 1203

LIMDIS

4. WITHIN THE LAST TWO DAYS WE HAVE REPORTS THAT THREE  
UNITS OF THE GUYANESE DEFENSE FORCE, EACH PROBABLY NO  
LARGER THAN PLATOON SIZE, HAVE BEEN DEPLOYED TO THE  
CORENTYNE. (A BRIEF ITEM IN THE GOVERNMENT-OWNED  
CHRONICLE ON APRIL 17 ACKNOWLEDGED THE PRESENCE OF GDF  
SOLDIERS ON THE CORENTYNE COAST IN RESPONSE TO A NEWS  
BROADCAST ON PRIVATELY-OWNED RADIO DEMERARA BUT DESCRIBED  
IT AS CONNECTED WITH "ROUTINE MANEUVERS.") FURTHER-  
MORE, IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE GUYANESE  
GOVERNMENT'S ONLY PATROL BOAT OF ANY SIZE OR CONSE-  
QUENCE HAS ALSO BEEN SENT TO THE VICINITY OF THE MOUTH  
OF THE CORENTYNE. THIS WOULD APPEAR TO BE AN ACCELE-  
RATION OF THE TIMETABLE MENTIONED IN PARAGRAPH 3 OF THE  
COURSE OF ACTION WHICH SPECIFIED THAT IF THE GOS  
FAILED TO RESPOND POSITIVELY WITH REASONABLE TIME  
(TWO TO THREE WEEKS) TO THE GOG INVITATION CONTAINED

IN ITS NOTE TO SEND A DELEGATION TO GEORGETOWN, THEN  
MILITARY AND NAVAL CONTINGENCY PLANS WOULD BE IMPL-  
MENTED. ASSUMING THE ESSENTIAL VALIDITY OF THIS  
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DOCUMENT THE NEXT STEP CONTEMPLATED BY THE GOG WOULD  
NOW BE THE RECALL OF AMBASSADOR SAUL FROM PARAMARIBO.

5. COMMENT: WE ARE INCLINED TO ASSIGN A HIGH DEGREE  
OF RELIABILITY TO THIS DOCUMENT. IT DOES NOT, HOWEVER,  
SPECIFY WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT AFTER PARA 4 ("THE  
SEVERING OF ECONOMIC RELATIONS" BETWEEN GUYANA AND  
SURINAM). NEITHER DOES IT INDICATE WHAT ACTIONS IF  
ANY THE GUYANA DEFENSE FORCE ELEMENTS AND NAVAL UNIT  
DEPLOYED TO THE CORENTYNE ARE EXPECTED TO TAKE. IT  
DOES NOT SEEM LIKELY THAT THE GUYANESE GOVERNMENT  
WOULD TAKE ANY SUDDEN OR PRECIPITATE ACTION AGAINST  
SURINAM IN THE CORENTYNE AREA WHILE PRIMIN BURNHAM  
IS AWAY ON HIS MULTI-NATION TRIP TO RUSSIA, NORTH  
KOREA, EAST GERMANY AND GREAT BRITAIN (HE IS DUE BACK  
ON MAY 5); NEVERTHELESS, THE DISPATCH OF ESSENTIALLY  
UNTESTED GDF TROOPS AS WELL AS A PATROL BOAT TO THE  
MOUTH OF THE CORENTYNE OBVIOUSLY INCREASES TENSION ON  
THE BORDER AND SEEMS A GENERALLY UNHELPFUL ACT BY A  
GOVERNMENT SEEKING AN "AMICABLE" SETTLEMENT TO ITS  
DIFFERENCES WITH ITS NEIGHBOR.  
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